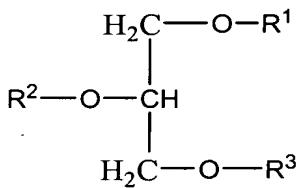


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (New): A method of preventing or treating skin damage, comprising orally administering a composition containing diacylglycerol ether represented by the formula (1):



wherein R^1 denotes C_{12-24} aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 2; R^2 denotes C_{12-24} acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6; and R^3 denotes C_{12-24} acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6.

Claim 6 (New): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 1, wherein the skin damage is wrinkle formation and/or sagging formation, the formation of skin cancer, or the formation of pigmented spots and/or freckles.

Claim 7 (New): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 1, wherein the diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 10 mg and 5000 mg per day.

Claim 8 (New): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 1, wherein the composition is provided as processed food.